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RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 050950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5437

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 6 SAIGON 7350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT MAY 29 - JUN 4 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY

1. COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 1 CONTINUED HIGH IN THE THREE PROVINCES SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. VNAF COMBAT AIR STRIKES WERE MADE FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE WEEK IN THE FIGHTING TO CONTROL THE ROAD FROM TIEN PHUOC TO TAM KY IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE. IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON GVN RESETTLEMENT AREAS CONTINUED. IN MR 2 THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DECLINED SLIGHTLY AFTER A TWO-WEEK COMMUNIST-INITIATED HIGH POINT. HEAVY ACTIVITY CONTINUED, HOWEVER, IN BINH DINH WHERE ABOUT 20,000 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN CREATED DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS' FIGHTING. IN DARLAC PROVINCE ANOTHER ISOLATED BORDER POST WAS OVERRUN. ABOUT 1,200 MONTAGNARDS FROM THE POST AT TIEU ATAR HAD BEEN REMOVED BY VC/NVA FORCES TWO WEEKS EARLIER; 600 HAVE NOW ESCAPED BACK TO A GVN RESETTLEMENT AREA. IN MR 3 HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE AS ARVN FORCES FACED STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE TO THEIR EFFORTS TO TAKE BACK THREE POSITIONS NEAR BEN CAT. BY THE WEEK'S END, A MAJOR ARVN OBJECTIVE, AN DIEN VILLAGE, WAS ONCE AGAIN IN GVN HANDS. IN A MAJOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION ON JUNE 3 THE COMMUNISTS RAINED 75 TO 85 122MM ROCKETS ON THE FRINGES OF BIEN HOA CITY AND BIEN HOA AIR BASE. FORTY-TWO WERE KILLED AND 82 WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK. IN MR 4 OVER-ALL MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DECLINE WITH THE FOCUS OF COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS SHIFTING FROM THE SOUTHERN TO THE NORTHERN DELTA.

PART II - FPJMT

2. THE DRV AND "PRG" DELEGATIONS TO THE FPJMT WALKED OUT OF THE REGULAR THURSDAY PLENARY SESSION MAY 30 AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD "CEASE PARTICIPATION IN FPJMT SESSIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU (US/GVN) STOP ALL ACTS OF SABOTAGE (OF PARIS AGREEMENTS),
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RESTORE THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS, AND DISPLAY A SERIOUS ATTITUDE IN NEGOTIATIONS." THE COMMUNIST WALKOUT IN THE FPJMT SUSPENDED CONTACT BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES IN THE LAST FUNCTIONING CONSULTATIVE ORGAN ESTABLISHED BY THE PARIS ACCORDS. ON FRIDAY, MAY 31, AN UNEVENTFUL SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT TRANSPORTED COMMUNIST DELEGATION MEMBERS AND BAGGAGE ON BOTH LEGS OF THE FLIGHT.

3. THE US AND GVN DELEGATIONS TO THE FPJMT MET ALONE AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSION ON JUNE 4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THE SAME DAY THE US MISSION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE US AND GVN DELEGATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIMES TO CARRY FORWARD THAT PORTION OF THE FPJMT'S WORK OF CONCERN TO THE TWO PARTIES UNTIL THEY WERE REJOINED BY THE DRV AND "PRG". THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE WORK OF ACCOUNTING FOR THE MISSING IN ACTION AND THE RETURN OF REMAINS OF US DEAD CONTINUED TO MAKE PROGRESS THROUGH GVN-US COOPERATION IN SPITE OF COMMUNIST INTRANSIGENCE AND EFFORTS TO TURN THE CLEARLY HUMANITARIAN TASKS OF THE FPJMT TO THEIR OWN POLITICIAL PURPOSES. HE NOTED THAT "THE UNITED STATES CAN ONLY REGARD SUCH SYNCISM WITH DEEP REGRET. THE DEAD ARE PAST THE CARES OF THE WORLD; THERE IS NO HONOR IN BARTERING WITH THEIR BONES."

PART III - ICCS.

4. THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE POLISH DELEGATION ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WARSAW INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE POLISH DELEGATION IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE SIX ICCS TEAM SITES, PARTICULARLY CU CHI AND LAM SON IN BEN CAT AREA WHERE ARTILLERY FIRE HAS BEEN IMPACTING. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE SEEKING TO HAVE ARVN ARTILLERY RELOCATED AWAY FROM TEAM SITES. IN REPLY THE EMBASSY SYMPATHIZED WITH THE POLISH CONCERN AND SUGGESTED THAT THE DELEGATION RETURN TO PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED SAFE TEAM SITES IF EVACUATION PROVED REALLY NECESSARY.

PART IV -- COMMUNIST MEDIA

5. COMMUNISTS TRUE TO FORM ON TAN HIEP TRAGEDY. VIET CONG PROPAGANDISTS, FOLLOWING THE PRECEDENTS SET AT CAI LAY AND SONG PHU, HAVE SOUGHT TO BLAME THE GVN FOR THE "MASSACRE" OF PRISONERS KILLEDY IN A VC ROCKET ATTACK AT TAN HIEP JUNE 3. THE
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SPOKESMAN OF THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY SKIRTED AROUND THE FACT THAT THE DEATHS RESULTED FROM AND INDIRECT ATTACK BY FIRE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE TO CHARGE THE GVN OF CONDUCTING AN ABF AGAINST A HEAVILY POPULATED AREA UNDER ITS OWN CONTROL WOULD STRAIN THE CREDULITY OF EVEN THE MOST GULLIBLE LISTENER. PROBABLY FOR THE SAME REASON, COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE NOT REPORTED THE ATTACK ON BIEN HOA AIR BASE, WHICH OCCURED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE ROCKETING OF TAN HIEP.

6. VC SAY AMERICANS PILOTING VNAF BOMBERS. APPARENTLY HARD UP FOR NOVEL PROPAGANDA, THE VIET CONG AND HANOI HAVE NOW ACCUSED THE US OF PROVIDING AMERICAN PILOTS FOR VNAF COMBAT SORTIES. ACCORDING TO A RADIO HANOI BROADCAST ON JUNE 4, F-5E AIRCRAFT "DIRECTLY MANNED BY US PILOTS" ARE SUPPORTING RVNAF UNITS IN THE ONGOING FIGHTING NEAR BEN CAT. (COMMENT: THESE CHARGES HAVE

NOT BEEN OBSERVED IN LPA OR VNA TRANSMISSIONS ABROAD, SUGGESTING THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO HEIGHTEN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR FORCES BY POSING AN "AMERICAN THREAT" OR TO EXPLAIN AWAY VNAF'S EFFECTIVENESS DURING THE BEN CAT CAMPAIGN OR BOTH. END COMMENT.) THESE CHARGES ARE, OF COURSE, FALSE.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 6 SAIGON 7350

PART V - MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS, THERE WERE 158 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE THREE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF THE REGION, AND VNAF PROVIDED COMBAT AIR STRIKES FOR THE FOURTH WEEK IN SUCCESSION IN SUPPORT OF ARVN EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE ROAD FROM TIEN PHUOC TO TAM KY IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE. GVN CASUALTIES: 76 KIA, 440 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 176 KIA, 1 RETURNEE.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO MILITARY ACTIVITY OF NOTE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, IT WAS THERE THAT MRS. HOANG THI GIANG, THE SISTER OF LT. GENERAL HOANG XUAN LAM, FORMER COMMANDING GENERAL OF I CORPS, ESCAPED ACROSS THE LINE OF DEMARCATION TO REJOIN HER FAMILY IN GVN TERRITORY AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS UNDER COMMUNIST RULE.

3. IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN ARVN CONTINUED ITS LOW-LEVEL EFFORT TO REGAIN HILL 300. ON JUNE 3 THE DANANG - HUE TRAIN WAS MINED. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, BUT TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED. THE 1ST AIRBORNE BRIGADE HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY MOVED SOUTH TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESERVES FOR THE SAIGON AREA.

4. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM THE ENEMY STRUCK HARD AT THE PHU PHONG RESETTLEMENT SITE AND OTHER GVN POSITIONS ON GO NOI ISLAND IN DIEN BAN DISTRICT. ALTHOUGH THEY HAD SOME INITIAL SUCCESS, HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE BEEN DIRVEN BACK BY THE 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS OF THE 56TH REGT. OF THE 3RD ARVN DIVISION AND THE 3RD BN. OF THE 2ND REGT.

5. IN QUANG TIN MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL AS THE ENEMY ATTACKS CONTINUED IN THIEN PHUOC AND TAM KY
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DISTRICTS FOR THE FIFTH WEEK IN A ROW. ON JUNE 3RD THE ENEMY FIRED APPROXIMATELY 1,000 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AT VARIOUS GVN UNITS IN THE PROVINCE. GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO CONCENTRATE ON PROTECTING THE TIEN PHUOC-TAM KY ROAD, AND REFUGEES FROM BOTH TIEN PHUOC AND HAU DUC DISTRICTS HAVE FLED TO TAM KY CITY. LATE IN THE WEEK THE 12TH RANGER GROUP RETURNED TO QUANG NGAI AND WAS REPLACED BY THE 5TH REGT. OF THE ARVN 2ND DIVISION.

6. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE TOOK PLACE IN NORTHWESTERN TAM KY DISTRICT EXTENDING ACROSS THE DISTRICT BORDER INTO THANG BIEN. ON MAY 30TH TWO PF OUTPOSTS WERE OVERRUN AND LOST TO THE ENEMY. REPEATED ATTACKS BY FIRE HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST OTHER GVN FORCES IN THIS AREA. THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO USE 122MM ROCKETS LIBERALLY IN THE PROVINCE. TWO SITES WITHIN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL WERE STRUCK DURING THE WEEK BY ROCKETS, KILLING THREE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING NINE.

7. IN QUANG NGAI MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THE COMMUNISTS FOCUSED MOST OF THEIR ACTIVITY ON THE TWO VILLAGES OF BINH THIEN AND BINH THONG IN EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT. BOTH VILLAGES HAVE RETURN-TO-VILLAGE SITES. ENEMY FIRE AT THESE SITES CAUSED SEVERAL UNDER-STRENGTH PF PLATOONS TO FLEE IN DISORDER. LARGE PORTIONS OF BOTH VILLAGES FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS. OVER 8,500 PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN OR NEAR BINH SON DISTRICT TOWN. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REOCCUPIED PARTS OF BINH THIEN VILLAGE AND THE PEOPLE ARE ANTICIPATING AN EARLY RETURN. THE VIETNAMESE RED CROSS IS PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF.

8. AS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO PACIFY THE BATANGAN PENINSULA, THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER HAS COMMITTED THE 3RD BN OF THE 6TH REGT TO THE SUPPORT OF THE 137TH AND 103 RF BNS. THESE LAST HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING OPERATIONS AGAINST THE 40TH VIET CONG LOCAL FORCE BN. THE LARGEST ENGAGEMENT OF THE WEEK WAS FOUGHT JUST 2 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE MO DUC DISTRICT TOWN. THE VC SUFFERED 27 KILLED IN AN ILL-FATED ATTEMPT TO OVERRUN A RANGER POSITION. RANGER CASUALTIES WERE MODERATE. TWO TERRORIST BOMBS EXPLODED IN QUANG NGAI CITY DURING THE WEEK. THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND THREE OTHERS WOUNDED BY ONE OF THE PLASTIC CHARGES, WHICH THE COMMUNISTS DETONATED NEAR A COFFEE SHOP. TWO OF THE VICTIMS WERE SCHOOL TEACHERS.

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9. ICCS:

THE ICCS DID NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE IN MR-1 DURING THE WEEK.

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SR-02 ORM-03 /170 W

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R 050950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5439

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 6 SAIGON 7350

PART VI - MR-2

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY DROPPED SLIGHTLY IN MR II LAST WEEK AS ACTION IN THE NORTHERN COASTAL PROVINCES BEGAN TO DECLINE AFTER A TWO WEEK HIGH POINT. INCIDENTS BRIEFED DURING THE WEEK BY MR II HQ AT NHA TRANG DROPPED FROM 169 TO 165. BINH DINH REPORTED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS FOR THE THIRD WEEK IN A ROW, WITH 59, (DOWN FROM 81 LAST WEEK). INCIDENTS IN KONTUM INCREASED FROM 24 TO 44. OTHER INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN PLEIKU (22), PHU YEN (16), DARLAC (7), BINH THUAN (6), KHANH HOA (5), AND QUANG DUC AND TUYEN DUC (THREE EACH). RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE LISTED AS 71 KIA, 236 WIA, AND 26 MIA, AND COMMUNIST CASUALTIES AS 268 KIA AND 10 CIA. CASUALTY FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE STILL UNDETERMINED RF CASUALTIES AT TIEU ATAR. AIR STRIKES DECLINED BY ALMOST ONE-THIRD IN THE MR WITH 130 IN BINH DINH AND 80 IN KONTUM.

2. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: TWO NVA REGIMENTS WERE REPORTED PULLING BACK AS ACTIVITY BEGAN TO DECREASE IN BINH DINH OVER THE PAST WEEK. THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO NORTHERN TAM QUAN DISTRICT IS LESSENING, PROVINCE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH CONTACTS CONTINUE IN THE AREA AT AN ONLY SLIGHTLY REDUCED RATE. ON MAY 28, TWO COMBINED SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACKS ON RANGER AND RF UNITS TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF TAM QUAN DISTRICT TOWN LEFT 21 ARVN KIA AND 15 WIA, WITH ENEMY CASUALTIES GIVEN AS 50 KIA. PHU CAT AIR BASE RECEIVED SIX 122 MM ROCKETS IN TWO ATTACKS ON MAY 20, AND EIGHT MORE ON MAY 31, CONTINUING A SERIES OF SHELLINGS OF THE BASE THAT BEGAN MAY 17. CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY, MUCH OF IT NOT BRIEFED, IS TAKING PLACE EAST OF PHU MY DISTRICT TOWN WHERE THE PROVREP REPORTS COMMUNIST UNITS TO HAVE TAKEN FIVE VILLAGES. THE TWO REMAINING BATTALIONS OF THE 47TH REGIMENT HAVE MOVED TO PHU MY DISTRICT, JOINING THE BATTALION THAT ARRIVED LAST WEEK. SOME 3,000 REFUGEES FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES BY FIGHTING IN EASTERN PHU MY DISTRICT MOVED TO AN AREA NEAR QUI NHON. THIS BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM THE LAST THREE WEEKS OF FIGHTING IN BINH DINH TO ABOUT 20,000, ALTHOUGH MOST ARE IN VILLAGES NEAR THEIR HOMES, AND CAN EASILY RETURN WHEN THE FIGHTING DIES DOWN. ACTIVITY SLACKENED CONSIDERABLY IN PHU YEN WITH MINES ACCOUNTING FOR EIGHT OF 11

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ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS.

3. KONTUM: THE PUSH TOWARD VO DINH INITIATED BY THE 41ST AND 44TH REGIMENTS LAST WEEK HAS BOGGED DOWN ALONG A LINE CROSSING HIGHWAY 14 TWELVE KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY. INTENSE SHELLING OF ARVN UNITS CONTINUED, WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES REPORTED. HOWEVER THE OPERATION MAY BE ACHIEVING ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE: TO DRAW ENEMY ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE ISOLATED OUTPOSTS OF MANG BUK AND CHUONG NGHIA. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED AT EITHER LOCATION DURING THE WEEK. MINOR ACTION CONTINUES NORTH AND EAST OF OUTPOST FIVE, 13 KMS NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY.

4. PLEIKU/DARLAC: PLEIKU AIR BASE RECEIVED 18 ROCKET ROUNDS ON MAY 28 WHICH WOUNDED ONE VNAF AND DAMAGED AT LEAST ONE AIRCRAFT. REMAINING INCIDENT IN PLEIKU WERE MOSTLY IN THE THANH AN DISTRICT AREA TO THE WEST AND SOUTH-WEST OF PLEIKU CITY. TWO RF COMPANIES WERE OVERRUN IN A COMBINATION SHELLING-GROUND ATTACK ON TIEU ATAR IN NORTHWEST DARLAC ON MAY 30. THE ATTACK ON THE ISOLATED BORDER POST CAME TWO WEEKS AFTER VC/NVA HAD REMOVED 1196 NEARBY MONTAGNARD RESIDENTS TO A COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREA. AT WEEK'S END SLIGHTLY OVER 600 OF THESE CIVILIANS HAD ESCAPED TO A GVN RESETTLEMENT AREA AT BAN DON. TWENTY-ONE RF SURVIVORS FROM TIEU ATAR ARE REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO BAN ME THOUT.

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 7350

PART VII - MR-3

1. MORE INTENSE MILITARY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT MR 3 WAS DOMINATED BY HEAVY FIGHTING IN BEN CAT AND WAS CAPPED WITH A HEAVY ROCKET ATTACK ON BIEN HOA IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 3.

2. THE MOST INTENSE OF SOME 15 ROCKET AND MORTAR ATTACKS THROUGHOUT BIEN HOA PROVINCE AT 0500 HOURS JUNE 3 WAS THAT ON THE BIEN HOA CITY AREA WHICH WAS STRUCK BY AN ESTIMATED 75 TO 85 122MM ROCKETS. DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES FELL MOST HEAVILY ON THE CIVILIAN FRINGES OF BIEN HOA CITY, AND BIEN HOA AIR BASE WHICH TOOK SOME 15 TO 20 OF THE ROCKETS. THE BALANCE IN THE BIEN HOA AREA STRUCK THE SPRAWLING AIR BASE WITH DAMAGE CONFINED, HOWEVER, TO LIGHT CRATERING OF THE TWO RUNWAY HEADINGS AND THE LOSS OF 500 NAPALM CANNISTERS STRUCK IN THE AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA OF THE BASE. REPORTED CASUALTIES IN THE CITY AND AIR BASE AREA WERE 42 KILLED (40 CIVILIANS) AND 82 WOUNDED (71 CIVILIANS).

3. IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING IN BEN CAT, THE GVN PLAN TO RECOVER AN DIEN, OUTPOST 82, AND RACH BAP ALONG ROUTE 7 WAS AGAIN IMPEDED BY FIERCE NVA/VC DEFENSE OF THE AREA, INDICATING A COMMUNIST

INTENTION TO HOLD IT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. DURING THE WEEK THE MR 3 COMMANDER BROUGHT ALL OF THE REMAINING COMBAT ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH DIVISION, EXCEPT ONE BN OF THE 48TH REGT, INTO THE BEN CAT AREA AND PLACED THE OPERATION UNDER THE OVERALL COMMAND OF THE 18TH DIVISION COMMANDER, BG DAO. AS THE WEEK WORE ON, DAO'S FORCES ADVANCED STEADILY AND AT MID-DAY ON JUNE 4 AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING THE 48TH AND 52ND REGTS HAD SECURED AN DIEN HAMLET. AN DIEN HAS BEEN REGARDED AS THE KEY IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, THE RECOVERY OF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO OPEN UP THE RECOVERY OF OUTPOST 82 AND RACH BAP FURTHER WEST ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 7. PHU GIAO DISTRICT OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET THROUGH HARASSING ATTACKS ON SONG BE BRIDGE SOUTH OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN CONTINUED AND THERE WERE OMINOUS INDICATIONS DURING THE WEEK THAT THE 7TH NVA DIVISION MIGHT RENEW ITS ATTACKS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE DISTRICT ALONG LTL 16 AROUND BINH CO AND BINH MY VILLAGES.

4. MR 3 REGIONAL HQS LISTED 286 INCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK, COMPARED
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WITH 276 DURING THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD. FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN ALL THE PROVINCES WITH BINH DUONG PROVINCE AGAIN DOMINATING THE ACTION WITH 140 INCIDENTS (COMPARED WITH 123 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK). BIEN HOA WAS SECOND WITH 28 INCIDENTS FOLLOWED BY HAU NGHIA WITH 25. GROUND CONTACTS TOTALED 44, ATTACKS BY FIRE REACHED 160 (COMPARED TO 142 LAST WEEK) AND THERE WERE 18 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF ATTACKS. MININGS WERE AT A RELATIVELY LOW 31 AND THERE WERE 33 MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS INCLUDING 17 SMALL ARMS HARASSMENTS, TWO ASSASSINATIONS AND ONE ABDUCTION.

5. COMMUNIST GUNNERS REPORTEDLY FIRED 2,746 MIXED ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR WHILE GVN ARTILLERY FIRE CLIMBED TO 57,383 ROUNDS (COMPARED WITH 42,443 LAST WEEK AND 9,259 THREE WEEKS AGO). VNAF REPORTED 262 SORTIES IN THE REGION, CLAIMING 214 VC/NVA KILLED BY AIR AND 18 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. THREE AIRCRAFT WERE DOWNED BY ENEMY ACTION (ONE A-1 BY AN SA-7 MISSILE AND ONE F-5 AND ONE HELICOPTER BY GROUND FIRE). AN ADDITIONAL F-5 WAS DITCHED WHEN, RETURNING FROM A COMBAT MISSION, ITS LANDING GEAR MALFUNCTIONED. ALL CREWMEN WERE RESCUED.

6. GVN CASUALTIES REPORTED BY MR 3 HQS WERE 106 KIA (INCLUDING 6 CIVILIANS), 496 WIA (38 CIVILIANS) AND 27 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE REPORTED AT 122 KIA, TWO CIA AND 16 RALLIERS.

7. IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE, REGIONAL FORCES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BIEN HOA PROVINCE CHIEF RE-TOOK THE SMALL VILLAGE OF PHUOC THO (NHON TRACH DISTRICT) WHICH HAD BEEN OCCUPIED EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY 2 COMPANIES OF THE 274TH NVA REGT. PRELIMINARY REPORTS CARRY GVN REGIONAL CASUALTIES AS 5 KIA AND 17 WIA WITH 3 KNOWN NVA DEAD. IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA, COMMUNIST FORCES SHELLED TAN DINH SUB-SUBSECTOR 9 KMS EAST OF THE CONG THANH DISTRICT CAPITAL

KILLING THE SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER AND WOUNDING 11, INCLUDING 3 CIVILIANS. REGIONAL FORCES DEFENDING THE PERIMETER OF BIEN HOA'S LONG BINH BASE KILLED ONE SAPPER ATTEMPTING TO PENETRATE DEFENSE LINES.

8. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 29, A COMMUNIST FORCE OVERRAN THE BAO TRE PF OUTPOST LOCATED 700 METERS SOUTH OF QL 1 IN CU CHI DISTRICT, HAU NGHIA, KILLING 10 AND WOUNDING 3 OF THE 14 MEN ASSIGNED TO THE POST. ONE JUNE 1, DURING THE EARLY MORNING, A COMMUNIST FORCE OVERRAN THE BAO BINH III OUTPOST IN XUAN LOC
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DISTRICT, LONG KHANH. OF THE 24 RF ASSIGNED TO THE POST, 10 HAVE RETURNED TO GVN LINES AND 14 OTHERS ARE MISSING. BAO BINH II AND BAO BINH III HAMLETS, OVERRUN BY THE NVA/VC FORCES LAST WEEK, HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01

SR-02 ORM-03 /170 W

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R 050950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5441

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
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PART VIII - MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. OVERALL ACTIVITY: MIL ACTY IN THE DELTA CONTINUED TO DECLINE. MOST OF VC MR3 WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, WHILE FQE SPOTLIGHT SHIFTED TO VC MR2. SONG ONG DOC DISTRICT IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE WAS THE ONLY AREA IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA THAT EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANTLY INTENSIFIED ACTIVITY. IN THE NORTHERN DELTA, ACTION IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY WHILE OTHER PROVINCES EXPERIENCED LITTLE CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK. CORPS REPORTS 362 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (426 LAST WEEK) INCLUDING 52 GROUND ATTACKS (53), 218 ATTACKS BY FIRE (255), 76 HARASSMENTS (92), 6 SABOTAGE (18) AND 10 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (8). REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES WERE SIMILAR TO LAST WEEK WITH 182 KIA (199), 868 WIA (863), 96 MIA (81), AND 18 CREW-SERVED (8) AND 213 INDIVIDUAL (245) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 653 VC/NVA KIA (543), 9 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (13), AND 27 CREW-SERVED (21) AND 158 INDIVIDUAL (152) WEAPONS SEIZED.

B. NORTHERN DELTA: IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, HEAVY FIGHTING ERUPTED AGAIN IN CAO LANH, KIEN VAN AND MY AN DISTRICTS. TWO OUTPOSTS IN MY HOI (V), KIEN VAN (D) WERE OVERRUN (ONE SINCE RETAKEN) WHILE SEVERAL OTHER OUTPOSTS IN THE SAME AREA CAME UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE, REPORTEDLY FROM 502A VC BATTALION. 261B

VC BATTALION HAS KEPT PRESSURE ON THREE OUTPOSTS IN BINH THANH (V), ALSO IN KIEN VAN (D). REACTION TO VC ATTACKS RESULTED IN REPORTS FROM VILLAGERS THAT 30-35 VC WERE KILLED INCLUDING 502A BATTALION DEPUTY CO. SECTOR ESTIMATES 502A HAS LOST EQUIVALENT OF ONE COMPANY IN PAST WEEK FROM KILLED AND WOUNDED AND GVN FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO HARASS THE UNIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WEAKENED STATE. IN OTHER INCIDENTS, A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 30 IN LONG HIEP VILLAGE WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BY A MINE FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO MONTHS, AND A VNN LCVP STRUCK A MINE OF THAP MUOI CANAL IN THIEN MY (V), CAO LANH (D) RESULTING IN ONE KIA, 5 WIA AND LOSS OF THE BOAT AND SEVERAL CREW-SERVED AND INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE DECREASED SOMEWHAT AFTER A VERY ACTIVE WEEK LAST WEEK, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL

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SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS. THANH HUNG VILLAGE OFFICE (GIAO DUC DISTRICT) RECEIVED 20 ROUNDS 82MM WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. ONE OUTPOST IN SAM GIANG AND ANOTHER IN CAI BE DISTRICT WERE OVERRUN, BUT TWO OTHER OUTPOSTS IN CAI BE WITHSTOOD ATTACKS THAT RESULTED IN 6 RF KIA, 16 RF WIA AND 30 VC KIA. A CIVILIAN BUS RECEIVED SNIPER FIRE AT 0840 HOURS ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 20 IN CAI LAY DISTRICT. ONE CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED. LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN CHAU DOC I PROVINCE REMAINED SAME AS RECENT WEEKS. IN THE ONLY GLCE ATTACKWN A PF PLATOON IN BA CHUC (V), TINH BIEN (D) SUFFERED FOUR KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN) AND FOUR WOUNDED WHILE KILLING SEVEN VC ATTACKERS. LAST WEEK'S SITREP IMPLIED INFILTRATION OF TWO 600-MAN GROUPS THROUGH CHAU DOC INTO KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER GROUP ACTUALLY ENTERED RVN. POW FROM AN ELEMENT OF GROUP 2066, CAPTURED AFTER HIS ELEMENT DETONATED A MECHANICAL AMBUSH IN CHAU DOC, INDICATED OTHERS IN THE GROUP RETURNED TO AN CHAO (CAMBODIA) WHILE 2067 INFILTRATION GROUP WAS TO ARRIVE AT TA NI (CAMBODIA) "IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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ORM-03 DRC-01 /170 W

----- 028163

R 050950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C. CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY. HOWEVER, THOI AN VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS (KIEN BINH DISTRICT) WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE FROM ELEMENTS OF THE 18B NVA REGIMENT. SECTOR REPORTS THAT INFILTRATION ALONG ROUTE 1C HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON. KIEN HOA REPORTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN OVER A MONTH, ALMOST HALF OF WHICH WERE HARASSMENTS DIRECTED AT OUTPOSTS. THE PROVINCE CAPITAL RECEIVED FIVE ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR, CAUSING

SLIGHT DAMAGE AND THREE WOUNDED. DON NHON DISTRICT TOWN WAS ALSO SHELLED WITH NO CASALTIES OR MAJOR DAMAGE. ACTIVITY IN VINH BINH PROVINCE DECREASED, BUT VC/NVA PRESSURE REMAINED VERY STRONG IN CANG LONG AND CAU KE DISTRICTS. ONE KEY OUTPOST IN CAU KE WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE AND HAS NOT YET BEEN RETAKEN. PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REQUESTED TWO BATTALIONS FROM 9TH ARVN DIVISION TO DEAL WITH PRESSURE IN THESE AREAS, BUT TROOPS WERE DENIED. TWO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS OCCURRED IN TAM NGAI (V), CAU KE (D) IN WHICH 28 VC WERE KILLED AND 6 RF WOUNDED. BOTH VINH LONG AND SA DEC PROVINCES REPORT BOOBY-TRAP AND HARASSMENT INCIDENTS, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS DURING THE WEEK. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, THE VC/NVA REMAINS IN CONTROL OF MOST OF PHUNG HIEP AND PHONG THUAN DISTRICTS. A PF SQUAD WAS ATTACKED 10 KM SOUTH OF THUAN NHON DISTRICT TOWN RESULTING IN FIVE PF MISSING. ACCORDING TO A LATE REPORT, A VC FORCE FROM VINH LONG PROVINCE ATTACKED THE PHONG THANH HAMLET OFFICE, PHONG NAM (V), PHONG THUAN (D) ON MAY 24 KILLING THE HAMLET CHIEF AND HIS DEPUTY AND TAKING 19 PSDF BACK TO VINH LONG.

D. SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN DECREASED SHARPLY. HUNG LONG DISTRICT TOWN WAS SHELLED ON FIVE OCCASIONS, BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. AN OUTPOST THREE KM FROM KIEN THIEN DISTRICT TOWN WAS ABANDONED AFTER A GROUND ATTACK. BA XUYEN EXPERIENCED AN UNUSUALLY LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND ONLY ONE GROUND ATTACK, WHICH WAS REPULSED. BAC LIEU ALSO REPORTS DECREASED ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH THE VC PHU LOI I BATTALION AND DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE COMPANIES CONTINUED TO HARASS AND SHELL OUTPOSTS IN NORTHERN VINH CHAU DISTRICT IN SPITE OF ARVN 31ST REGIMENT OPNS IN THE AREA. VC DISTRICT LOCAL FORCES ALSO INCREASED ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN GIA RAI DISTRICT AFTER A PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM. ONE OUTPOST
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IN AN TRACH VILLAGE WAS ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE AND SECTOR DOES NOT PLAN TO REESTABLISH IT. DURING A SWEEP IN VINH HUNG VILLAGE, VINH LOI DISTRICT, A PF FORCE REPORTED KILLING 15 VC/NVA WHILE SUSTAINING 2 KILLED AND 3 WOUNDED. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, THE FOCUS OF ACTIVITY SHIFTED TO SONG ONG DOC DISTRICT. THREE OUTPOSTS THERE WERE ATTACKED AND A POSITION OF THE 21ST ARVN DIV RECEIVED 30 MORTAR ROUNDS ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 30. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE THREE OUTPOSTS WAS LOST.

2. GVN AFFAIRS: DINH TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL CHUNG VAN BONG ANNOUNCED JUNE 3 THAT HE WILL BE REPLACED BY COL NGUYEN VAN HAI BY JUNE 5. COL HAI HAS BEEN CO 16TH REG/9TH ARVN DIVISION SINCE JUNE 1972.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE, TREATY VIOLATION, KIA, COMMUNISTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES, TRUCE OBSERVERS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON07350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740143-0127
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740673/aaaackpw.tel
Line Count: 868
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 16
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT MAY 29 - JUN 4 1974 CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005